



Town of Arlington, Massachusetts
730 Massachusetts Ave., Arlington, MA 02476
Phone: 781-316-3000

webmaster@town.arlington.ma.us

07/24/2012 Minutes

Park and Recreation Commission
Minutes
Tuesday, July 24, 2012 @ 7:00 PM
Approved

The Park and Recreation Commission came to order at 7:00 PM on the first floor of the Arlington Senior Center on Tuesday, July 24, 2012.

Members in attendance included: Leslie Mayer, Shirley Canniff, Don Vitters, Jen Rothenberg and Jim Robillard. Also in attendance was Director of Recreation Joseph Connelly.

Members of the public included: Betsy Wright and Karen Grossman, Paul Greene and Mr. Tomaseski

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Vitters asked that at the end of the first paragraph under public comments, the following be added, "While she has never appeared before the Commission before". Mr. Vitters motioned to approve the Minutes of the June 12, 2012 meeting as amended, seconded by Ms. Canniff and approved 5-0.

Open Forum – Public Comments

N/A

Capital Improvement Update

Wellington Tennis Courts – Mr. Connelly stated that the courts are complete. First court repaving is now complete and it's in better shape than it was. The drainage fix is working. Mr. Connelly stated that there have been requests for the lights to stay on until 10:00 PM. The Commission agreed that the first year the lights will remain on only until 9:00 PM for general use.

North Union Basketball Court – Mr. Connelly stated that the court is completed and looks great. There was no storm damage.

Thorndike Field OLRA – Mr. Connelly stated that extra trash cans were put in. The paths did not set as expected and are too soft. A member of the Disability Commission got stuck on the pathway and had to be helped out. After discussions with the contractor, manufacturer and designer, it was discovered that the wrong material was used. The Stayloc product was not used, as specified. Sacca will be correcting this and will be asked to raise the path to see if that will help keep the stones off the path. Sacca will also price out edging. There needs to be a solution for tree protection (to keep dogs from digging and running behind the benches). Recycled plastic mesh fence could be an option. Mr. Connelly will ask a fencing company and Andrew Leonard to give us some suggestions.

2013 Request Review – N/A

Reservoir Boat Ramp – Mr. Connelly stated that the DPW has \$13,000 and offered to help with funding. It will need to go through the Conservation Commission. Heimlich had given an estimate based on the specs for the Spy Pond Boat Ramp. This approach will be reviewed with the Conservation Commission to determine the level of detail that is needed to move forward.

Poets Corner Master Plan – On hold.

Menotomy Pond Step replacement – Mr. Connelly stated that they have received funding and are moving forward with the repair.

Spy Pond Pathway – Heimlich did pathway modifications, but seem to have missed a section. This will be verified. The trash can receptacle should be moved.

Rink Phase 3 – The project is on target. Prep work is complete, condenser unit is in, and they will start making the ice on August 3rd. There will be a custom-made dehumidifier system installed, which is scheduled for late August. It will be complete around September 4th. The new Zamboni will be bid out soon.

Peirce School Playground Wall – Mr. Connelly stated that we have received \$15,000 in funding. Sacca is going to do the work prior to school starting, based on Cate Oranchak's design.

Rink Sign – A purchase order has been opened and work will begin in the next three weeks.

Off Leash Dog Review Review

Mr. Connelly received a complaint regarding an off-leash dog incident at Menotomy Rocks Park on June 22, 2012. It was asked if there is somehow a way to restrict the off-leash area to the two grassy fields only and not allow them on the path around the pond. It was felt that this was unlikely.

Mr. Connelly also received an email from Wes Beal with regard to the signage at the OLRA, which remind users that excessive barking is not allowed and to clean up after your dog. He was offended by them. The Commission is attempting to determine the right level of signage for this new facility before it is made permanent and supports Mr. Morello in his attempts to educate the users and enforce the rules as defined. Ms. Mayer will respond to Wes Beal.

Special Requests

Softball Tournament – Mr. Connelly received a request from Paul Greene to use fields in Arlington for a regional softball tournament the weekend of August 3rd. They are requesting use of Peirce and Buzzell fields. Mr. Connelly stated that Peirce Field is available. He will have to check on Buzzell and verify with AYBSA that there are no town games on those days. The softball group will have to submit an official request with the understanding that there will be no amplification and public parking at Buzzell Field is limited and restricted to areas that do not belong to the abutting condos.

This will be a benefit for Arlington High Softball. There will be 40 teams with a mix of resident and non-resident players – similar to the AAU tournament. Mr. Greene stated that he would like to donate \$50 per game with \$6 going to the field maintenance fund and \$44 going to AHS girls' softball. There will be a 7 game maximum at each field. Mr. Robillard motioned to approve, seconded by Ms. Rothenberg and approved 5-0.

International School of Boston – Robbins Farm on September 9, 2012. The permit fee will be \$75.00, which is the same as last year. They will need a police detail, DPW detail and they will need to supply the Town with an insurance certificate naming the town as an additional insured. Ms. Canniff motioned to approve, Mr. Vitters seconded and approved 5-0. The Commission would like a review of special event fees to happen at the next meeting.

Spy Pond Family Fun Day – September 8, 2012 - The venue will be the same as previous years. No food or amplified sound. They will have an electric keyboard from 1:00 to 4:00pm. The Commission agreed that this will be okay as long as they adhere to

the Town noise by-laws. Mr. Connelly will send information regarding the Town rules to them. Ms. Rothenberg motioned to approve, seconded by Ms. Canniff and approved 5-0.

Arlington Men's Softball (AMS) Cleanup Request at Hurd Field – Mr. Connelly received a note from Charles Dwyer. Men's Softball would like to do some general cleanup at Hurd Field. The Commission agreed that there would have to be some restrictions. AMS would need to stay away from the left field fence, as any work in this area along the brook would require the approval of the Conservation Commission. Trash can be picked up. There will be no power tools allowed. A walk around with Mr. Connelly would need to be coordinated prior to work beginning and after work is complete. No alcohol and no grilling will be allowed. Before any permits are issued next year, AMS team rosters will need to be submitted to Mr. Connelly. The league needs to be organized better. Ms. Canniff motioned to approve with the above restrictions, seconded by Mr. Vitters and approved 5-0.

Rink and Recreation Update – Budget Updates

Mr. Connelly reviewed the FY 12 final rink and recreation budgets. **Committee Updates:**

Portable Restrooms – N/A

Friends of Parks – N/A

Skateboard Park – Mr. Connelly is having discussions with Town Administration to see if there are available funds to match a potential donor, so that upgrades can be done.

Mill Brook Linear Park – N/A

Other Business

Ms. Rothenberg motioned to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Vitters and approved 5-0. The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 PM.

Respectfully Submitted:
Joseph Connelly, Director of Recreation